

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are currently pending in this application. By this paper, claim 7 has been amended, and claims 9-27 have been added to provide claim coverage commensurate with the scope of the invention. Reconsideration and early allowance of claims 1-27 are respectfully solicited.

The Applicants acknowledge with thanks the Examiner's indication that claims 7 and 8 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. Claim 7 has been rewritten in independent form in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions. Because claim 8 depends from claim 7, it should likewise be allowable.

Claims 1-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Bruck et al. ("Bruck"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites a user interface for an Internet-enabled television system comprising "a display area for displaying broadcast television and Internet related content." Both types of content may be displayed in the same interface, allowing a user to conveniently switch between television viewing and web "surfing" with minimal interruption.

In the Office Action, the Examiner relates the claimed display area with Bruck's reference numeral 62 shown in FIG. 3. However, reference numeral 62 is described as a "graphics and text field" for displaying content downloaded from the Internet. Indeed, Bruck's home page 60, which includes the graphics and text field 62, is merely a display generated by a conventional web browser. There is no teaching or suggestion in Bruck that the graphics and text field 62 may be used to display broadcast television content, as required by claim 1.

Claim 1 further recites “a personalized category area which includes a plurality of personalized content categories and which provides access to content in those personalized content categories.” As set forth in the specification, the claimed category area may be “personalized” in that users may select which categories should be included therein. Furthermore, the content, itself, may be personalized to a user’s interests, geographic location, or the like.

In the Office Action, the Examiner equates the claimed personalized category area with the region to the left of the graphics and text field 62, which consists of two “hypertext anchors” 63 and 64. In a conventional web browser, as described by Bruck, such hypertext anchors provide links to predefined content. For instance, anchor 64 is described as being a link to the “instruction page” for a WebTV™ system.

There is no teaching, hint, or suggestion that Bruck’s hypertext anchors may be personalized, either in terms of being user-configurable or by providing customized information based on the particular user or the user’s location. Accordingly, Bruck does not disclose the claimed personalized category area.

Claim 1 also recites a “personal monitoring area for monitoring a plurality of types of personal communications and for providing access to interfaces for those types of personal communications.” The claimed personal monitoring area provides both monitoring and interface functions. The monitoring function is described in the specification as providing a user with a notification of an incoming personal communication. For instance, the personal monitoring area depicted in Fig. 20 “shows that a user called ‘Molly P.’ is active and available for instant message communication with the present user.” The interface function, on the other hand,

allows a user to conveniently access an interface for a particular type of personal communication from the personal monitoring area.

In the Office Action, the Examiner associates the claimed personal monitoring area with the region above the display area 62 of FIG. 3. However, this region merely includes standard buttons from a web browser. There is no teaching, hint, or suggestion of a mechanism for notifying a user of an incoming personal communication or providing any other type of monitoring function.

Even if Bruck were deemed to disclose a personal monitoring area, such a monitoring area would pertain to a single type of personal communication, i.e. email. There is no teaching or suggestion of a monitoring a plurality of types of personal communications, such as email and instant messaging, as required by claim 1.

The Applicants respectfully submit, therefore, that claim 1 is patentably distinct over Bruck. Claims 2-6 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1, and are therefore patentably distinct for at least the same reasons that claim 1 is patentably distinct.

Claims 1-6 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Anderson et al. ("Anderson"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Like Bruck, Anderson fails to disclose or even suggest a category area that is personalized, either in terms of being user-configurable or by providing customized information based on the user or the user's location. The Examiner equates the area to the left of the "WEB CONTENT" region of FIG. 3 with the claimed personalized category area. However, this region only includes a set of standard buttons, such as a "TV Home" button 90, which is used to "switch to the television mode", and a "Using WebTV" button, which is used to "provide help to the

user.” The Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner explain how such buttons may be considered personalized.

Similarly, Anderson fails to disclose or even suggest a personalized monitoring area of the type claimed. The Examiner points to the area above the “WEB CONTENT” region of FIG. 3. However, such an area only includes standard buttons, such as a “Mail” button 94, which allows “a user to access a mail configuration in which email can be sent and read.” There is no teaching or suggestion of notifying a user of incoming personal communications or performing any other monitoring function.

Even if Anderson were found to disclose a personal monitoring area, such a monitoring area would pertain (like Bruck) to a single type of personal communication, i.e. email. There is no teaching or suggestion of a monitoring a plurality of types of personal communications, such as email and instant messaging, as required by claim 1.

Accordingly, for the reasons set forth above, the Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is patentably distinct over Anderson. Claims 2-6 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1 and are therefore patentably distinct for at least the same reasons that claim 1 is patentably distinct.

New claims 9-27 have been added to provide claim coverage commensurate with the scope of the invention. Support for the new claims may be found in pages 31-35 of the specification. No new matter has been added.

Claim 9 recites a personal monitoring area including a notification of an incoming personal communication. As described above, neither Bruck nor Anderson, alone or in combination, discloses a notification of an incoming personal communication, such as an email message or instant message, as recited in claims 10 and 11, respectively.

Claim 12 recites a notification of an incoming personal communication including an indication a sender's identity. Neither Bruck nor Anderson provides any teaching or suggestion of a notification of an incoming personal communication, let alone a notification that includes an indication of a sender's identity.

Claim 13 recites a personal monitoring area comprising a plurality of notifications of incoming personal communications. Neither Bruck nor Anderson provides any teaching or suggestion of a notification of an incoming personal communication, let alone a plurality of notifications.

Claim 14 recites a personalized monitoring area comprising a reminder message, such as a notification of upcoming television programming (claim 15). Neither Bruck nor Anderson, alone or in combination, discloses reminder messages or any type of notification concerning upcoming programming.

Claim 16 recites a personal monitoring area including a communication from a user desiring to establish a shared viewing experience. Neither Bruck nor Anderson, alone or in combination, discloses the sharing of viewing experiences between users, let alone displaying within a personal monitoring area a communication from a user desiring to establish a shared viewing experience.

Claim 17 recites a personalized content area that selectively displays content related to a user's interests. Likewise, claim 18 recites a personalized content area that selectively displays content related to a user's geographic location. Such personalization, by user and/or geography, is not taught or suggested by Bruck or Anderson.

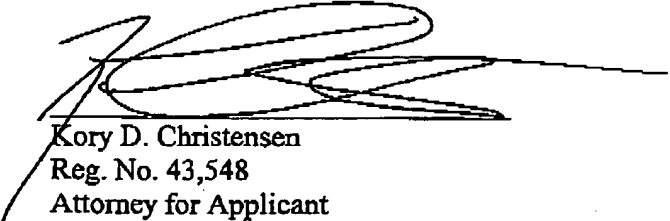
Claim 19 recites a personalized content area with user-configurable content categories. As previously noted, there is no teaching or suggestion in Bruck or Anderson of user-configurability of content or links to content.

Claim 20 recites a user interface including "a user-customizable category area" and a personalized monitoring area for "notifying a user concerning incoming personal communications." As previously explained, neither Bruck nor Anderson discloses user-customization of content categories or notifications of incoming personal communications.

In view of the foregoing, the Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-27 are patentably distinct over the cited references. Reconsideration and early allowance of all pending claims herein are respectfully requested. If there are any remaining issues preventing allowance of the pending claims that may be clarified by telephone, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version With Markings to Show Changes Made."

Respectfully submitted,



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Version With Markings to Show Changes Made

7. (Amended) [The user interface of claim 6, further comprising] A user interface for an Internet-enabled television system, the user interface comprising:

a display area for displaying broadcast television and Internet related content;

a personalized category area which includes a plurality of personalized content categories and which provides access to content in those personalized content categories;

a personal monitoring area for monitoring a plurality of types of personal communications and for providing access to interfaces for those types of personal communications;

a first side of the display area along which the personalized category area is aligned;

a second side of the display area along which the personal monitoring area is aligned;

wherein the first and second sides are perpendicular to each other so as to form a L-shaped configuration,

wherein a first pair of arrows of an input device are used to navigate among categories in the personalized category area, and where a second pair of arrows on the input device are used to navigate among features in the personal monitoring area,

wherein switching from navigation among categories in the personalized category area to navigation among features in the personal monitoring area occurs automatically upon switching from use of the first pair of arrows to use of the second pair of arrows, and

wherein switching from navigation among features in the personal monitoring area to navigation among categories in the personalized category area occurs automatically upon switching from use of the second pair of arrows to use of the first pair of arrows; and

a non-personalized user interface mode which comprises:

the display area;

a group of primary controls;

a plurality of groups of context-sensitive controls;

a third side of the display area along which the group of primary controls are aligned;

a fourth side of the display area along which the group of context-sensitive controls are aligned;

a third pair of arrows of an input device for controlling navigation among the primary controls; and

a fourth pair of arrows on the input device for controlling navigation among the context-sensitive controls,

wherein switching from navigation among the primary controls to navigation among the context-sensitive controls occurs automatically upon switching from use of the third pair of arrows to use of the fourth pair of arrows,

wherein switching from navigation among the context-sensitive controls to navigation among the primary controls occurs automatically upon switching from use of the fourth pair of arrows to use of the third pair of arrows, and

wherein the third and fourth sides of the display are opposite to the first and second sides of the display.